[26th March 1923

(2) The annual charges incurred in the Public Works Department Workshops and in the Public Works Stores are as follows :—

Public Works Workshops.

		RS.			RS.
1912–13	...	45,992	1917–18	...	73,412
1913–14	...	54,492	1918–19	...	82,476
1914–15	...	56,790	1919–20	...	90,579
1915–16	...	62,614	1920–21	...	1,18,839
1916–17	...	71,127	1921–22	...	1,05,856

N.B.—Increased charges are owing to increased orders.

During the war no money was spent on repairs and the increased charges were the result of heavy orders from the Board of Munitions.

Since the war the further increase is partly the result of increase of wages but until last year the orders have remained heavy and repairs to buildings and machinery are overdue. The charges will only fall considerably after these repairs are executed.

(3) Many articles turned out by the Public Works Workshops could be manufactured by local Engineering firms and could be got in the open market but not at so low a cost.

(4) In the past most of the stores have been obtained by Home indent, but local indents are freely made now. The General Superintendent prepares Home indents, places local indents and guarantees quality, receives and distributes stores to all Government departments and not only to the 34 Executive Engineers.

(5) The answer is in the affirmative.

(6) The answer is in the negative.

(7) The number of officers in the Madras City has been reduced by one, the Stores and Workshops having been combined into one division under the General Superintendent with effect from 1st April 1922.

(8) Yes.

The Superintending Engineer, V Circle, however controls the establishment of Shops and Stores.

Report of the Indigenous Drugs Committee.

922 *Q.*—Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the action which the Government have taken or propose to take on the Report of the Indigenous Drugs Committee presided over by Khan Bahadur Usman Sahib, M.L.C. ; and

(*b*) whether they propose to place the said Report on the Editors' table for the use of the public ?

A.—(*a*) The Government have not yet considered the report which has only just been received.

(*b*) The question is under consideration.